

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

November 2013 – Week 2

Air Date: November 3 – November 9 (Sunday – Saturday)



TITLE: WACO BURNING

NOVEMBER 1875 AND TRAGEDY ON GALVESTON BAY.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

NOVEMBER 8, 1875. GALVESTON. THE MALLORY LINE STEAMSHIP, THE CITY OF WACO, HAS ARRIVED FROM NEW YORK INTO A STORMY GALVESTON BAY. TOO WINDY TO DOCK, THE SHIP AND ITS 56 CREW AND PASSENGERS MOOR OVERNIGHT OFF THE SOUTH JETTY.

AROUND MIDNIGHT, AS THE SHIP IS TOSSED IN THE STORM, THERE'S AN EXPLOSION. CREWS ON NEARBY SHIPS WATCH AS THE CITY OF WACO BURNS TO THE WATERLINE, KILLING EVERYONE ONBOARD. IT IS THE DEADLIEST TEXAS MARITIME DISASTER.

SOME SUGGEST LIGHTNING HAD FOUND THE GALLONS OF LAMP OIL ILLEGALLY STORED ON DECK.

IN 1900 THE WRECK WAS DEMOLISHED AS A HAZARD. THE HULL WAS FOUND BY DIVERS IN 2005.

THE CITY OF WACO BURNED 138 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

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Allen Turner, "Historians explore tragedy of the City of Waco ship," *Houston Chronicle* (<http://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/article/Historians-explore-tragedy-of-the-City-of-Waco-1513639.php>), printed July 24, 2005, accessed October 24, 2013.

Jim Kalafus, "The Public Be Damned: One Black Week in 1875 (The City of Waco Disaster)," *Encyclopedia Titanica* (<http://www.encyclopedia-titanica.org/black-week-1875~chapter-0~part-3.html>), accessed October 24, 2013.

"City of Waco," *Wikipedia* (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City_of_Waco), accessed October 24, 2013.

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